

REMARKS:

Claims 1 through 8 (original) were cancelled, and (new) Claims 9 through 16 ²WERE newly presented by Response to First Office Action. In Second (Final) Office Action of July 29, 2005 Claims 9 through 16 were rejected under Section 103(a) as being patentable over Matsubara in view of Pasquini et al in further view of Yoshikawa. By this amendment Claim 9 is amended and Claim 17 newly presented.

Claim 9 (currently amended) and Claim 17 (new) are independent claims. Applicants respectfully submit they define subject matter patentably distinct from Matsubara, alone or in combination with Pasquini and/or Yoshikawa.

Matsubara is directed to a vehicle designed to be energy efficient by virtue of the fact (in part) motor-generators of the vehicle are *always mechanically coupled* to the wheels of the vehicle so that kinetic energy of vehicular speed (inertia) may be recovered as usable electrical energy.

The vehicle of the invention presented by the claims as herein amended is designed to be energy efficient by other means, namely by providing means for selective mechanical disconnection of the front wheels of the vehicle from any electric motor thereby eliminating mechanical drag of the front electric motor when its use is not necessary (as defined by Claim 9), by providing means for selective mechanical disconnection of the rear wheels of the vehicle from any electric motor thereby eliminating mechanical drag of the rear electric motor when its use is not necessary (as defined by Claim 17) or selectively disengaging front, rear or both electric motors from their respective wheels as conditions may variably require. Matsubara does not disclose, teach or suggest, alone or in combination with the other art of record, selective mechanical disconnection of either or both electric motors. To the contrary, it discloses and teaches the opposite, continuous mechanical coupling of wheels and respective

motors, even when motors are not driving, so that said motors may be used as electric power generating brakes.

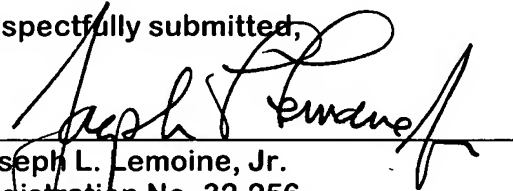
CONCLUSION:

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered into the case, respectfully submit that they place this application in condition for allowance, and respectfully request allowance thereof.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephonic interview would be helpful in resolving any issues, please contact the undersigned at the listed telephone number.

A duplicate copy of this letter is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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